

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the pending claims 15, 28, and 40 as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving at a routing register a message associated with an inactive subscriber of a communications network and including data relating to the identity of said subscriber;

based on the identity of said subscriber and on routing information stored at said routing register, selectively routing said message from said routing register to an inactive subscriber register for storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers;

and

updating said routing information associated with the subscriber at the routing register to route subsequent signaling associated with the subscriber to an active subscriber register, which after the receipt of said message at the inactive subscriber register is provisioned with subscriber data required by the active subscriber register to service said subscriber.
2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

storing a plurality of subscriber identities at the inactive subscriber register; and

provisioning the active subscriber register with subscriber data if the data relating to the identity of the subscriber in the message corresponds to one of said plurality of subscriber identities.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message is received from a mobile station of said inactive subscriber.
4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the message comprises an international mobile subscriber identity.
5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the message further comprises data relating to the location of the mobile station.
6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:
receiving from the inactive subscriber register data for providing the subscriber with a preliminary service.
7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said data received from the inactive subscriber register further comprises authentication information.
8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said preliminary service comprises notifying the subscriber that a service request has been acknowledged.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message is received from a visitor location register.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the register comprises a service routing register.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inactive subscriber register comprises a provisioning home location register.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active subscriber register comprises a home location register.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inactive subscriber register also functions as one of: a voicemail system entity; a mail server entity; a multimedia messaging server entity; a wireless application part gateway entity; a prepaid server entity; an intelligent network server; a short message service centre; a

location based service centre; a unstructured supplementary service data ~~USSD~~-centre; a general packet radio service ~~GPRS~~-server; a charging server; and rating server.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

determining in said active subscriber register that the subscriber has again become inactive;

storing subscriber data relating to the subscriber at the inactive subscriber register;

updating the information stored at said routing register to specify said subscriber as inactive such that the routing register routes subsequent signaling associated with the subscriber to the inactive subscriber register; and

deleting subscriber data relating to the subscriber from the active subscriber register.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising determining that said subscriber has become inactive if the time lapsed since a last message, associated with the subscriber, was routed exceeds a predetermined time.

19. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

an active subscriber register;

an inactive subscriber register comprising,

a storage configured to store subscriber data for inactive subscribers of a communication network,

a receiver configured to receive a message identifying an inactive subscriber to be activated, and

a processor configured to provision the active subscriber register of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message; and

a routing register comprising

a storage configured to store routing information relating to the identity of a plurality of subscribers of a communication network, and

a processor configured to

route signaling associated with inactive subscribers to an inactive subscriber register, and

update said routing information for at least one of said inactive subscribers to route signaling to an active subscriber register when said at least one of said inactive subscribers becomes active.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a storage configured to store subscriber data for inactive subscribers of a communication network;

a receiver configured to receive a message identifying an inactive subscriber to be activated; and

a processor configured to provision an active subscriber register of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a storage configured to store routing information relating to the identity of a plurality of subscribers of a communication network;

a processor configured to

route signaling associated with inactive subscribers to an inactive subscriber register, and

update said routing information for at least one of said inactive subscribers to route signaling to an active subscriber register when said at least one of said inactive subscribers becomes active.

22. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium, the computer program configured to control a processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving at a routing register a message associated with an inactive subscriber of a communication network and including data relating to the identity of said subscriber;

based on the identity of said subscriber and on routing information stored at said routing register, selectively routing said message from said routing register to an active subscriber register for storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers, and

updating said routing information associated with the subscriber at the routing register to route subsequent signaling associated with the subscriber to an active subscriber register, which after the receipt of said message at the inactive subscriber register is provisioned with subscriber data required by the active subscriber register to service said subscriber.

23. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers of a communication network at an inactive subscriber register;

receiving at said inactive subscriber register a message identifying an inactive subscriber to be activated; and

provisioning an active subscriber register of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, which is further configured to:

store a plurality of subscriber identities; and

provision said active subscriber register with subscriber data if the data relating to the identity of the subscriber in the message corresponds to one of said plurality of subscriber identities.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the message includes an international mobile subscriber identity.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, which is further configured to send to a control centre data for providing the inactive subscriber with a preliminary service.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 26 wherein said data sent to the control centre comprises authentication information.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, which is further configured to also function as one of: a voicemail system entity; a mail server entity; a multimedia messaging server entity; a wireless application part gateway entity; a prepaid server entity; intelligent network server; short message service centre; location based service centre; ~~USSD~~ unstructured supplementary service data centre; ~~GPRS~~ general packet radio service server; charging and rating server.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20 wherein the signalling includes an international mobile subscriber identity.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, which is further arranged to receive from the inactive subscriber register data for providing the subscriber with a preliminary service.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said data received from the inactive subscriber register comprises authentication information.

32. (Previously Presented) A service routing register, comprising:

- a storage configured to store routing information relating to the identity of a plurality of subscribers of a communication network;
- a processor configured to
 - route signaling associated with inactive subscribers to an inactive subscriber register, and
 - update said routing information for at least one of said inactive subscribers to route signaling to an active subscriber register when said at least one of said inactive subscribers becomes active.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the inactive subscriber register comprises a provisioning home location register.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the active subscriber register comprises a home location register.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:
storing a plurality of subscriber identities at the inactive subscriber register; and
provisioning said active subscriber register with subscriber data if the data relating to the identity of the subscriber in the message corresponds to one of said plurality of subscriber identities.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the message includes an international mobile subscriber identity.

37. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, comprising sending from the inactive subscriber register to a control centre data for providing the inactive subscriber with a preliminary service.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said data sent from the inactive subscriber register to the control centre comprises authentication information.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the inactive subscriber register comprises a provisioning home location register.

40. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the inactive subscriber register also functions as one of:

- a voicemail system entity;
- a mail server entity;
- a multimedia messaging server entity;
- a wireless application part gateway entity;
- a prepaid server entity;
- an intelligent network server;
- a short message service centre;
- a location based service centre;
- a unstructured supplementary service data ~~USSD~~-centre;
- a general packet radio service ~~GPRS~~-server; and
- a charging and rating server.

41. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium, the computer program configured to control a processor to perform operations comprising:

storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers of a communication network at an inactive subscriber register;

receiving at said inactive subscriber register a message identifying an inactive subscriber to be activated; and

provisioning an active subscriber register of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message.